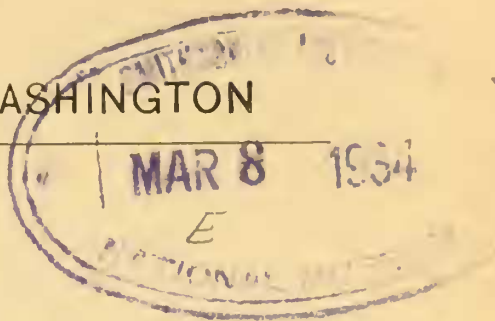


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW HARE FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF CHINA.

BY A. BRAZIER HOWELL.

Further study of the Chinese hares in the United States National Museum indicates the necessity of a new name for one of the series. In appreciation of the work of Rev. David C. Graham, who has made available so many rare vertebrates of this interesting country, this form may be known as follows:

***Lepus grahami*, sp. nov.**

Type.—Female adult, skin and skull no. 239,875, U. S. National Museum, from Ulöngkong, about 10 miles south of Tatsienlu, Szechwan, China; altitude about 10,000 feet. Collected by David C. Graham, date unknown but evidently in late July or early August, 1923; original number 8.

Diagnosis.—A large, long-eared, boreal hare allied to *L. comus*, but face and especially ears grayer and blacker. The black areas of the hairs of the dorsum are much more extensive and the light areas less ochraceous. The lower rump is markedly dark steel gray and the tail is variable, being either pale gray and black, or white and dark gray.

Skin.—There is some variation in the color of the head. The cheeks are always grayer and the frontal region blacker than in *comus*, but in some specimens the cheeks are clear gray without ochraceous and the forehead almost black. The backs of the ears are pure gray and the front, blackish and ochraceous, while there is much solid black below the tips and the borders are pure white instead of buffy white. The nape is not black as in *nigricollis* but is darker and less ochraceous than in *comus*. The dorsum is grayer and with a much greater proportion of black to the hairs. They are steel gray at base, but whereas in *comus* this is restricted and then succeeded by a broad band of ochraceous, the latter feature is almost lacking in *grahami*, there being but a faint suggestion of this color proximal to the black annulation. The rump is strikingly bluish steel gray tending toward black medially. The tail is narrowly dark middorsally, either black or dark gray, while below this member is either pale gray or white. There is nothing distinctive about the feet or the underparts, the latter being white with the usual ochraceous throat patch.

Skull.—Unfortunately there is no skull of *comus* at hand. The skull of *grahami* is, however, more massive than those of the *tolai* group, this being especially noticeable in the width of the rostrum and braincase. The supraorbital processes are larger and their anterior fissures more extensive. The postero-inferior part of the audital bullae is also smaller, thus affecting the inclination of the paroccipital processes.

Measurements.—None of the skins are accompanied by measurements. In the case of the dried specimens the length of the ear "from skull" is from 115 to 125 mm., while that of the hind foot is about the same. The skull of the type measures: greatest length, 105; width, 43; length of nasals, 40; width of nasals, 21 mm.

Material.—Ten: five (including the type) from Ulongkong and Tatsienlu, and five—not typical—from the Yellow Dragon Gorge, near Sungpan, Szechwan.

Remarks.—Of the alpine hares of this section of Asia, the group to which belong the forms *tibetanus*, *hypsibius*, *oriostolus*, *pallipes* and *stoliczkanus* is very distinctive and has nothing to do with *grahami*. Satunin states that his *L. kozlovi* also belongs to this group and deWinton says the same of his *L. sechuenensis*, although his figure does not indicate the fact. Rather does it show a type of hare more on the order of *L. europaeus*. But at least it is very different from *grahami*. G. M. Allen has kindly loaned me the paratype of *L. comus*, and although this and *grahami* undoubtedly belong to the same group and their relationship may well prove to be subspecific, the Szechwan series is so distinct that it must be separated. The coloration of the latter is closer to typical *nigricollis* than is that of *comus*, the chief points of difference being the dorsal tone and lack of black upon the nape. The five specimens from Yellow Dragon Gorge vary in the direction of *comus* but are nearer *grahami*. By the use of the binomial it is not meant to imply that the latter is believed to be a full species, but this course is followed pending a better understanding of the highland hares of this part of Asia.